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Medicine Hat
The Gas City

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY UNDERTAKES ANNUAL METER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

3,700 Electric meters to be inspected in 2007

Medicine Hat – More than 3,700 electric meters at residences and businesses in Medicine Hat are scheduled to be inspected in 2007.

Under the federally regulated Electricity and Gas Inspection Act, the City of Medicine Hat Electric Utility is required to inspect their customers' electric meters. The Electric Utility maintains approximately 26,000 electric meters in the Medicine Hat, Dunmore, Redcliff, Veinerville and rural areas.

"The Federal Government Meter Exchange Program is something the City of Medicine Hat must follow," says Russ Balmer, the Protection and Control Supervisor for the Electric Utility. "The program is in place to ensure there is a fair measure for all customers in regards to the energy the City sells and our customers purchase."

Meters that are replaced by the Electric Utility are sent to a government approved inspection agency, the Meter Service Organization (MSO), to be cleaned, calibrated, inspected for accuracy, and sealed prior to being reinstalled in a residence or business.

"The staff manages the annual program in a cost effective manner while keeping disruptions to a minimum," says Balmer. "We try to make contact with residential owners by knocking or ringing the door bell. If the call is answered the owner is advised of the replacement. The disruption to electric services to replace a meter is only for a short period of time. If a customer isn't on site, we replace the meter and leave a calling card explaining why their power was disrupted."

The card includes a telephone number to call if the customer requires further information on the process. Additional information is available on the City of Medicine Hat website www.medicinehat.ca. Click on City Services A-Z / "E" / "Electric Utility" or visit the Federal Government website at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/mc-mc.nsf/en/Home

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